

Gallaudet Fact

Q. Which undergraduate major at Gallaudet has grown the fastest in the past two years?

Answer on page 2.



Instructor Janna Montagnino (left), program development coordinator for Deaf Women United, leads a session on mentorship in the Deaf Women's Leadership Program. This new offering from the Gallaudet Leadership Institute (GLI) was held on campus July 24 to 28 and drew 10 female participants. According to GLI's website, the program "provides Deaf women with an invigorating environment for self-awareness, exploration, actualization, and leadership development.

The program also strives to

improve the quality of each participant's life through community engagement, service, and development." During the week, instructors from all over the country talked about topics that reinforced these goals, such as deaf women's history, successful communication, and community development. Activities included presentations on Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services, led by the organization's executive director, Marilyn Smith, and "isms"—different forms of oppression such as racism, sexism, heterosexism, and autism—led by Dr. MJ Bienvenu, chair of the ASL and Deaf Studies Department. (Below, from left) Julia Leggett (North Carolina) makes a point during Montagnino's presentation while Kat Brockway (Maryland), Jennifer Gember (Maryland), and Catherine Bennett (Colorado) look on.



Campus Calendar

August

16—International Student Orientation begins

19—Dorms open for new students

20—New Student Orientation begins

22—Graduate Student Orientation begins; New Student Convocation, 1 p.m., Elstad Auditorium

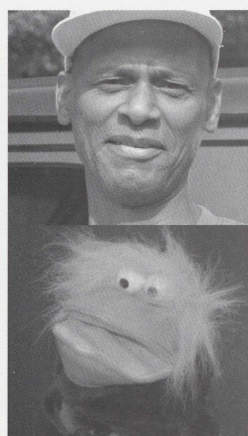
25—Employee Appreciation Barbecue, noon-4 p.m., Olmsted Green

26—Day of community service for new students

27—Dorms open for returning students

28—Fall semester classes begin

IN THIS ISSUE



Roving Reporter

John Horton and "Floyd," Denise West's stunt double, share their reasons for being on campus this summer.

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Marc Schweitzer, supervisor of electrical services, receives the Department of Public Safety's (DPS) On-the-Spot Award from Mel Batten-Mickens, executive director, Facilities, while Patrick Rader, DPS' manager of communication services, looks on. The award normally goes to DPS staff who take action, beyond their normal duties, that is of noted benefit to the campus community. "Marc's attentiveness, quick thinking, and communications to DPS to cordon off the area deserve a pat on the back," said Batten-Mickens.

Employee's prompt response praised

A keen eye for detail and a quick response on the part of an alert Gallaudet employee helped avert a potentially dangerous situation.

On the morning of July 17, Marc Schweitzer, supervisor of electrical services, was walking to his office in the Physical Plan Department when he saw something that struck him as odd—a handful of concrete chunks on the sidewalk and road near the Lincoln Circle entrance to the Hanson Plaza parking garage. While many people may not have given notice to the presence of a few stray pebbles, Schweitzer stopped and looked around. Glancing up, he saw a stream of loose concrete fragments fall from the footbridge that spans the road from the plaza to HMB.

"I said, 'This doesn't look good,' so I started making calls," Schweitzer recalled. Within moments, crews from Maintenance Services were on the scene to assess the damage and to disconnect electrical power to overhead lights, and the Department of Public Safety had barricaded the area from foot and vehicular traffic.

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First annual ASL Fest held

(Contributed by the Center for ASL Literacy)

The Center for American Sign Language Literacy (CASLL) hosted its first annual ASL Fest on July 15. The full-day event attracted approximately 150 participants, who enjoyed two magnificent presentations on "Body Part Classifiers" and "ASL Sign Selection," given by Patricia Yates and Leticia Arellano.

Following each of the presentations, the participants were assigned to break-out groups based on ASL signing level for hands-on activities with ASL instructors. When this activity was completed, the full group reconvened, and one or more volunteers from each level came on stage to demonstrate their ASL storytelling skills. Their performances were quite impressive.

The second portion of the ASL Fest—The ASL Community—provided participants with a taste of the communication barriers that deaf people experience in their daily lives. Simulated real-life scenarios were set up and the participants interacted in these situations as "deaf people." The climax of the day was an ASL storytelling performance by well-known entertainer Manny Hernandez.

A special thank you to Loretta Roulit who coordinated the ASL Fest and to the CASLL staff who helped make this event a memorable one for those who participated. ■



Participants take notes during an ASL Fest presentation.

Photo by Paul Roulit

Dr. Brueggemann updates campus on Board of Trustees' retreat

(Note: The following is a July 31 message to the campus community from Dr. Brenda Brueggemann, acting chair of the Board of Trustees.)

The Gallaudet University Board of Trustees met on Friday, July 28 and Saturday, July 29, at which time they reaffirmed their unanimous and strong support for Dr. Jane Fernandes as the University's ninth president. President I. King Jordan, President-designate Jane K. Fernandes, and Board Liaison Patricia M. Kunkle also participated in the retreat at the Dulles Hyatt. The retreat was facilitated by the Association of Governing Boards (AGB) and led by AGB consultant E.B. Wilson and AGB President Rick Legon. The retreat focused on the

following three topics:

- actions the board will take to ensure a successful presidential transition for Gallaudet;
- clarifying effective University and board governance; and,
- defining trustee responsibilities, individually and collectively.

One of the strongest messages the board left campus with last May is the need for more open and constructive dialogue with all campus groups. In the coming six months the board and the administration will work towards that goal by addressing the issues raised for a shared vision of an even better Gallaudet. The board calls upon faculty, staff, and students to work together for the future of the Gallaudet community.

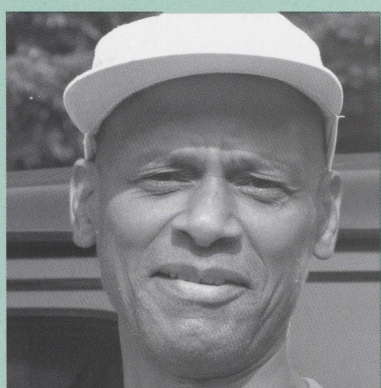
In the closing session of the retreat, Dr. Fernandes shared her plans and vision for the University and for acting on the issues highlighted last spring. Dr. Fernandes will soon be summarizing for the campus community her sense of the retreat, its outcomes, and the actions she and the board will be taking.

A team comprised of members of the board and representatives of campus constituencies will be formed to work on the successful transition of Dr. Fernandes and to recognize the stellar legacy of Dr. Jordan's 19-year tenure.

Sincerely,
Brenda Jo Brueggemann
Acting Chair

Roving Reporter

What brings you to Gallaudet this summer, and what has been the best part of your summer experience here?



I'm working here because I'm here all year, like I have been for 30 years. I've had a good time doing projects like getting the fountains running because people get a kick out of them.

John Horton,
plumber, maintenance services



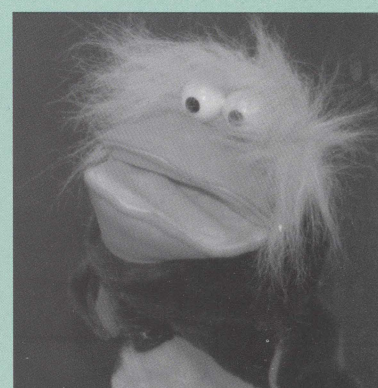
I'm here for the New Signers Program. The best part has been meeting all the new people. Everyone is really nice... I feel very comfortable here.

Janessa Wegner, new student



The Pan American Games for Deaf Youth brought me here. I have enjoyed working closely with several people at Gallaudet who helped us prepare for the Games. They're wonderful!

Marcia Nowak, chair,
Pan American Games for
Deaf Youth



I'm really a wealthy international spy, but I double as a humble-but-brilliant administrative assistant. I love my faculty, but the good thing about the summer is that when they're gone, I get tons of work done!

Denise West, administrative
secretary (and puppeteer),
Department of Foreign Languages,
Literatures, and Cultures (Pictured
is Floyd, West's stunt double.)

Marc Schweitzer

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A few hours later, while waiting for an outside contractor to arrive and support the deteriorating footbridge, a 20- by 40-foot-chunk of concrete crashed to the pavement below. Fortunately, there were no injuries or property damage. A structural engineer who was called in to assess the damage said that temperatures in the upper 90-degree range that settled in the region for several days contributed to the expansion, buckling, and eventual collapse of the section of the footbridge.

Schweitzer underplayed his involvement in helping avoid a disastrous situation, saying only that it pays to be observant. During his 27 years working for PPD, Schweitzer has noted several occurrences on campus that have made him see the potential for danger. Once, he saw several feet of water standing around a high voltage transformer by the EMG building, which he said could have caused an explosion. A prompt call to his office got a crew on the scene, which determined that a sump pump had failed, and a portable pump was brought in to clean up the water. Another time, during the first Deaf Way in 1989, Schweitzer noticed a thunderstorm rolling in and a crowd of people under a tent supported by metal poles that could be a conduit to lightning. After alerting DPS, the tent was quickly evacuated.

Schweitzer's advice to everyone on campus is, "If people see things that need to be fixed, report them. Don't expect (repairs) to get done magically—sometimes we don't know if you don't tell us. If we're aware of a problem, we can make plans to solve it."

(Note: To report a needed repair, call x5181 or email PPD.Service@gallaudet.edu.)

Gallaudet Fact

A. Studio art has been the fastest-growing major. From the 2004-05 academic year to the 2005-06 academic year, the number of majors jumped from one to 39.

Clerc Center Happenings

Summer campers make the most of MSSD's Summit 2006: Learn. Lead. Achieve.

Deaf and hard of hearing students from across the nation gathered at MSSD June 19 to 30 for Summit 2006: Learn. Lead. Achieve. This summer camp event offers participants Advanced Placement (AP) preview classes, leadership discussions and simulations, a journey through deaf history, and a weekend tour of Washington, D.C.

"The exciting thing about the program is that it truly is a gathering of some of the brightest deaf students from across the country," said Daniel Dukes, coordinator of Summit and MSSD's Honor's Program. This year's attendees represented a diverse group of students, from deaf schools and mainstream programs alike, coming from as far away as Wyoming and Maine. Participants were

housed in the MSSD dorms.

This is the second consecutive year that MSSD has run the camp. Attendance rose this year from 33 students to 41, with 18 of the students returning for a second experience.

Returning students were privileged to take part in Summit: Extreme activities, including an "Exploration of Psychology" course and several other special activities. The returning students were especially fond of the psychology course. "Many of the students informed me that they enjoyed this part and hoped to take the class again next year," said Dukes.

All of the students participated in a rotating schedule of classes taught by MSSD staff, including "AP US History," "AP Biology," "AP English," "Literature

and Film," and "Introduction to Filmmaking." Students were also treated to a nighttime tour of Washington's monuments, a day at Six Flags amusement park, a trip to the National Aquarium, and a trip to Arlington National Cemetery.

"It was a wonderful camp with some very intelligent and motivated future leaders who will be successful in whatever they choose to attempt," reflected Dukes at the end of this year's event. Dates for Summit 2007 have not yet been set, but with students already excited about returning, it is sure to be another huge success.

For information on Summit 2007, check back this fall at the Summit website: <http://clerccenter.gallaudet.edu/Honors/summit-2006.html>.

Administration & Finance

Batten-Mickens new leader of PPD

Meloyde Batten-Mickens, executive director, Facilities, is the new leader of the Physical Plant Department (PPD), one of the largest departments in the University. Also under the "Facilities umbrella" and Batten-Mickens' leadership is the Department of Public Safety (DPS).

While Batten-Mickens may be new to PPD, she is not new to the campus or to taking on leadership responsibilities. She came to Gallaudet five years ago, working for Information Technology Services in various supervisory positions, including acting director. In October 2005, Batten-Mickens became the director of DPS.

Leading both DPS and PPD will be an opportunity for her to share her innovative leadership style and work ethic with a large group of diversely talented people, Batten-Mickens said. She acknowledges that leading these departments is a demanding position, but welcomes the challenge. "The most important perspective for me is building teams that realize their value and importance within the department, community and, ultimately, organization-wide," she said.

The vast diversity within her departments—in terms of job responsibilities and the large number of personnel—will be their strength, she said, adding that success can be reached by recognizing, accepting, and appreciating the differences in people. "With a belief that leadership is an art embraced by many but accomplished by few, I am committed to effective communication structures, inclusive teams, and respect," Batten-Mickens said.

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